



# The NUNES Report

## Dam reconstruction briefing by Nunes and Army Sec

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### Quick Facts

In May, Rep. Nunes wrote to 1,062 constituents in response to their inquiries.

Year to date, Rep. Nunes has responded to 5,959 constituents via the U.S. Mail.

Furthermore, since Rep. Nunes was elected to Congress he has responded to 34,177 constituent letters via the U.S. Mail.



The Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works joined Rep. Devin Nunes on May 2, for a briefing and tour of the proposed \$200 million reconstruction of Success Dam in Porterville.

Secretary Woodley directs the Army Corps of Engineers, which operates Success Dam, as well as Terminus Dam at Lake Kaweah. Woodley was briefed at the offices

of the Lower Tule Irrigation District, then toured both dams by helicopter before landing at Lake Success for a press conference.

Testing has revealed the existing, earthen dam does not meet modern seismic standards. The Army Corps of Engineers plans to replace it with a concrete dam—a process expected to take about five years and cost as much as \$200 mil-

lion. The lake level has been reduced dramatically until the new dam is completed.

“This is an enormous project for southern Tulare County,” said Rep. Devin Nunes. “I invited the Assistant Secretary to visit the site personally to ensure this project gets the attention it needs at the highest levels to be completed as soon as possible.”

## Working for the Valley: Commentary

### Co-authored by:

Rep. Devin Nunes  
Rep. Bill Thomas  
Rep. Richard Pombo  
Rep. George Radanovich  
Rep. Dennis Cardoza  
Rep. Jim Costa

We've heard our relationship referred to as "extraordinary" and "unusual." Well, we believe it is. We are Members of Congress from the Central Valley and we work together on more issues than not. Is this typical for Republicans and Democrats? Unfortunately, no. Typical for a few guys from the Central Valley? The answer – yes.

We realize it's rare to see any true bi-partisan work being accomplished lately in Washington. Unfortunately, the majority of Congress' efforts are being consumed in political battles instead of focusing on genuine problems. As the people we represent understand, we have a long, strong record of working together for the Valley on issues important to all of us who live here.

As you know too well, California's economy has been buffeted by many challenges over the years. Increased traffic and congestion coupled with high gas prices are almost too much for our residents to take. With gas and oil prices constantly on the rise, most agree on the need to have a national energy and transportation plan that will help with the cost of fuel, shave time off commutes and help rebuild the economy.

In Congress, we've worked together and passed the Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (TEA-LU) containing funding for projects running through our districts. Traffic jams we face daily have become nightmares. They represent time stolen from watching our kids' soccer games, having dinner with our families or any number of other activities that are

more important than waiting in traffic.

Anything we as legislators can do to alleviate traffic congestion will build the quality of life for residents and commuters just passing through the area. This effort deserves more than just a representative looking out for the people in his or her jurisdiction. Just as traffic moves from one district to another – we realize this is everyone's problem, and we should all be committed to the solution.

Years ago, our Nation's leaders had the foresight to construct massive dams and reservoirs to provide water supplies to a thirsty western United States. But as times have changed, our nation's infrastructure has not kept pace. Here in California, no federal water storage projects have been built in a generation—while the population has increased by nearly 15 million. In the Central Valley alone, there are 1,600 miles of levees, various water storage areas and reservoirs that can be used in times of flooding. Unfortunately California's flood protection system is an aging infrastructure with major design deficiencies and it has been weakened by deferred maintenance and lack of funds.

Although states and localities are trying to meet these needs through various means, the federal government can help by encouraging water technologies, maintaining current projects and building more storage. We have taken steps forward in funding through several bills within Congress, such as the recently passed CALFED. We will continue to look for avenues to help with funding for levees and overall water quality. Many repairs and maintenance projects require millions of dollars to be spent on environmental reviews, and mitigation for environmental impacts and delay these much needed repairs. We will continue to work through a process that would streamline such requests which would allow protection to be provided in a much more efficient fashion.

Another important issue we are working on is High Risk Pest Detection, making sure we are meeting the needs of many farmers and ranchers in the Valley. Family farms produce the safest,



In a joint press conference via satellite from Washington, D.C., Reps. Devin Nunes, Dennis Cardoza, George Radanovich, and Jim Costa said the Central Valley region ranks below historically impoverished regions around the nation, yet doesn't get the same level of federal investment.

most affordable food supply in the world and the need to protect goods greater than ever. With the increasing movement of people and commerce, our environment and food supply is at serious risk from the accidental or intentional introduction of exotic and invasive species. We are working together on pest prevention to provide the greatest level of protection against plant and animal pests and diseases that can adversely impact human health, commerce, and the Nation's precious natural resources.

We are sure some in Congress and elsewhere dislike watching Republicans and Democrats work together on common goals, or don't believe it's actually possible. After all, Washington is famous for its examples of partisan politics. However, we Members from the Valley pride ourselves on our long history of working together to make a difference in the lives of people we represent. Of course, we don't agree on everything, but we don't let that get in our way. At the end of the day, we still think we've got something pretty special.

## Nunes takes seat on Ways and Means

Rep. Devin Nunes, R-Tulare, took his seat on the House Ways and Means Committee. He was selected to serve on the committee in January, but took a leave of absence.

Rep. Nunes fills the void left by Rep. Rob Portman (R-OH), who was confirmed by the Senate as the United States Trade Representative. The Republican steering committee, which makes committee assignments for members, made the ap-

pointment of Rep. Nunes.

"The Ways and Means Committee has the broadest jurisdiction of any in the House affecting issues important to the Central Valley. It is a great honor for me and a tremendous opportunity for my constituents to have a voice on this committee," Rep. Nunes said.

Ways and Means' jurisdiction covers issues regarding taxes, trade, health and Social Security, among others. Because of its broad

jurisdiction, most bills passed by other committees must also be reviewed by Ways and Means.

During his time in Congress, Rep. Nunes has focused his attention on issues regarding health, trade and taxes. This new committee assignment gives Rep. Nunes greater opportunity to pursue these issues as they relate to the Central Valley.

## Redwood student wins art competition for 21st District

Rep. Devin Nunes hosted an awards ceremony and reception May 9th for dozens of high school art students from throughout Fresno and Tulare counties who competed for the chance to have their work displayed in the U.S. Capitol for a year.

Art students, their parents and high school art teachers were on hand for the awards ceremony as Heidi Steinman of Redwood High School took the top honor. The event also kicked off a weeklong exhibit of the pieces submitted.

Students submitted 35 pieces for the competition, which was judged by art experts from Fresno and Tulare counties. The judges ranked the top 10, including the selection of the first, second and third place winners.

Steinman's art work will be displayed at the capitol for a year along with winners from other Congressional Districts around the country. She also got round-trip airfare for three people to Washington, D.C. on Southwest Airlines to attend a rib-



bon-cutting ceremony June 14 to honor all the participants.

Andre Carolina of Tulare Western High School won second place. Kyle Lynes of Clovis East High School took third place.

Above: The winning entry by Heidi Steinman was entitled "Mission in Colombia."

Right: Congressman Devin Nunes presents the first place certificate to Steinman, a student at Redwood High School.



### Quick Facts

In May, Rep. Nunes helped 31 constituents overcome problems with government agencies.

For the year, the Congressman has directly solved cases for 184 constituents and is currently assisting 529 others.

Furthermore, since Rep. Nunes was elected to Congress he has directly solved cases for 1184 constituents.

## Nunes kicks off second annual ag tour for Valley leaders

Rep. Devin Nunes kicked off his second annual Central Valley Ag Tour with more than 45 community and business leaders June 2.

The day-long tour took the group by charter bus to nine locations for a behind-the-scenes look at the nation's most diverse and productive agricultural region.

Traveling with the group this year as the congressman's special guest was California Secretary of Agriculture A.G. Kawamura.

"I think it's important to make sure our decision makers have an opportunity to get out from behind the desk and see what makes this region the envy of the world in terms of ag production," Rep. Nunes said. "At the same time, these decision makers also need to know what challenges our farmers and producers face in maintaining our local economy."

The tour schedule this year included:

- ◆ AgTAC in Tulare—Continental breakfast and tour
- ◆ California Dairies, Inc. in Tipton—The state's top dairy processor
- ◆ Fernandes Dairy in Woodville—Innovative dairy with carousel milking barn
- ◆ Sierra Forest Products in Terra Bella—The last saw mill in the Central Valley using timber from the National Forest
- ◆ LoBue Bros. in Lindsay—Citrus packing plant that uses combination of automation and hand processing
- ◆ Monrovia Nursery— The world leader in ornamental plants
- ◆ DeLeonardis Olive Oil in Ivanhoe—Family operated ranch that produces extra virgin olive oil
- ◆ Cal Gomes Quarter Horses in Visalia—Trains cutting horses that are shipped all over the world
- ◆ Hester Nut Cooperative in Farmersville—Longtime walnut growers and processors
- ◆ AgTAC reception



Top right: Josh Fernandes of Fernandes Dairy talks about the carousel platform that his dairy cows stand on as they are milked with California Secretary of Agriculture A.G. Kawamura. The cows are milked three times a day. The dairy is made up of 4,500 acres of farm ground with 3,500 head of milk cows and 3,000 head of replacement stock.

Middle right: Visalia City Manager Steve Salomon and Lindsay City Councilman Daniel Salinas sample some of the Extra Virgin Olive Oil varieties produced by DeLeonardis Olive Oil in Ivanhoe. There are seven different varieties of olives grown and processed by the family-owned operation.

Bottom right: At California Dairies, Inc. in Tipton, a robotic arm prepares to pick up a bag of dried milk powder and stack it on a pallet nearby. CDI is the top dairy cooperative in the nation with more than 680 producers who supply more than 14 billion pounds of milk for shipment or processing annually.

